

CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP
STATE OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT
Tuesday, October 29, 2002 – 2:00 P.M. to 4:45 P.M.
Police Department, Second Floor Classroom
1300 West Broward Boulevard

Present: Mayor Naugle
Commissioners Hutchinson, Katz, Smith, and Moore (2:10 pm)

Also Present: City Attorney Harry Stewart, City Clerk Lucy Kisela, and
Assistant City Manager Greg Kisela

Mayor Naugle called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.

Welcome and Overview – Chief of Police Bruce G. Roberts

Chief Roberts announced that the presentation would describe the state of the City of Fort Lauderdale Police Department: “Where we’ve been, where we are right now, and where we intend to go in the future.” He then listed the items the presentation would cover:

- Crime reduction and prevention
- Weapons of mass destruction / terror preparedness
- Hiring / quality and diversity
- Diversity of training
- Philosophy and strategy of policing
 - Community policing
 - Customer service
 - Community involvement
- UCR statistics
- Technology
- Employee relations
- Decentralization
- Staffing by district
- Dispatch communications
- Nuisances
- Service enhancements
- Appearance / premises
- Our vision for the future

Chief Roberts then gave a more detailed description:

Crime reduction methods

- Initiatives

- Remaining a positive force in the community
- Increase efficiency and effectiveness through use of technology
- Staff diversity and training
- Equip employees with tools to perform
- Part I crimes reduction
- 1995 action plan
- Triple the national crime reduction rate since 1995
- UCR stats
 - Auto theft reduction
 - Crime vis-a-vis unemployment
 - Youth demographics
 - Single-parent households
 - Decrease in calls for service

Weapons of mass destruction / terrorism

- Anthrax
- Member of FBI JTTF (Joint Terrorism Task Force)
- Member FDLE State Task Force
- New protocols
- Training with Fire Department and hospitals
- Grants to acquire new equipment

Hiring and training diverse staff

- Low vacancy rate
- Low attrition rate
- Diversity / high-quality candidates

Citizen satisfaction

- Increase in citizen satisfaction rate
- Decrease in Internal Affairs complaints
- Decrease in Category I and II complaints
- Philosophy of community policing
 - Problem solving and time management
 - Community partnerships
 - PSA handle 20% of report writing
 - Reserves program
 - Accountability within sectors
 - Problem solving activity versus statistics and reports
 - Comp Stat process
 - Weekly / monthly reviews
- Service enhancements
 - Accreditation by State of Florida
 - Recognized by CALEA
 - Increase service
 - Decrease liability

- Traffic enforcement
- Taxpayer savings
 - Grants
- Employee relations
 - Positive Union relationship

Commissioner Moore left the meeting at 2:40 p.m. and returned at 2:42 p.m.

- Decentralization
 - Advantages / disadvantages

Commissioner Moore inquired about the number of youth in the City and whether the figures provided were prior to annexation. Chief Roberts replied that the data available reflected the number of youth prior to annexation.

Support Services Bureau – Assistant Chief of Police James Hurley

Assistant Chief Hurley listed the six focus areas of his presentation:

- Recruiting and hiring
- Technology
- Communications
- Training
- Municipal jail
- Facility issues

Assistant Chief Hurley stated that in January 2000, the department experienced a staffing crisis, which provoked an examination of hiring practices for police officers, detention officers, and civilian personnel. The test standards and processes were analyzed, and the following steps were taken.

Recruiting and Hiring:

- State standard Criminal Justice Basic Abilities test was adopted
- Adjust vision, polygraph, background, and psychological tests
- Philosophy of hiring practices
 - Appropriate risk assessment of candidates
- Modernize recruiting
 - Set recruiting priorities
 - Increased recruiting budget
 - Created hiring policy
- Expanded recruiting efforts
 - Poster campaign
 - Web presence

- Radio talk shows
- Recruiting teams
- Military advertising
- College campuses
- Career fairs

Technology:

- Information-driven policing
 - Integrate information
 - Maximize performance
 - Allow expandability / connect ability of information technologies
 - Intelligent purchases
- Mobile computing
 - Mobile browser to display current info
 - 157 marked cars have computers with AVL

Assistant Chief Hurley noted that new technology programs provided workable information, not just raw data.

Communications:

- 1999 – Interlocal agreement
 - Regional communications center in the future
- Oversight committee
- Systematic review of complaints
- Monthly quality reviews
- Citizens' survey
- Smart Zone
 - Allows independent radio networks to share antennas
 - Interoperability between agencies

Training:

- Improve range and level of skills
- Increased firearm training
- Enhanced less lethal
 - Policy
 - Equipment
 - Training
- More in-house training

Municipal Jail:

- Provides service to community
- Lower rates of misdemeanor crimes
- Booking efficiency

Facility Issues:

- Needed renovations
 - Architectural

- Electrical systems
 - Flooding
- City architects and engineers study - 1999
 - \$3.2 million for repairs / renovations
- New building feasibility
 - Architects Design Group preliminary needs assessment
 - Recommendations will go to City Manager
 - Researching possible new locations

Investigative Bureau – Assistant Chief of Police Al Ortenzo

Assistant Chief Ortenzo noted an increase in juvenile crime in certain areas of the population, but the increase was being offset by the increase in the elderly population in other areas. He pointed out that the increased volume of calls coming in was largely due to tips and suspicious activities calls, which are diverted to other areas of the department. This explained the difference between the number of calls coming in and actual calls for service.

Assistant Chief Ortenzo noted the areas in which the Department leads the state because of the proactive stance it has taken in community policing and technology.

Criminal Investigations Division:

- Case Management Unit
 - Investigative analysis
 - Case assignment
 - Victim notification
 - BOLO television
 - Monthly newsletter
 - Citizen volunteer liaison
- Homicide Unit
 - Clearance rates
 - 2001 – 72.4%
 - National average only 56.6%
 - Emphasis on prevention
 - Cold Cases
 - All assigned to detective for ongoing review / investigation
 - Full use of new technology
- Special Victims Unit
 - Sexual battery / rape (adult and child)
 - Sex offenses / exposure
 - Child abuse / neglect / exploitation
 - Missing persons / children
 - Parental interference /custodial interference
 - DCF criminal cases

- Threat abatement group
- Domestic violence
- Stalking
- Violence in the workplace
- Victim advocate
- Operation Safety Net
 - Comprehensive sexual predator / offender information program
 - Community meetings
 - Monthly newsletter
 - Internet access to information
- Juvenile Crimes Unit
 - Gang investigations
 - Graffiti / vandalism investigations
 - Multi-Agency Gang Task Force (MAGTF)
 - Curfew investigations
 - Juvenile Intake Facility (JIF)

Commissioner Hutchinson left the meeting at 3:27 p.m.

Commissioner Moore left the meeting at 3:28 p.m. and returned at 3:33 p.m.

Commissioner Katz left the meeting at 3:31 p.m. and returned at 3:35 p.m.

Commissioner Smith left the meeting at 3:35 p.m. and returned at 3:37 p.m.

Mayor Naugle suggested altering the days/times that the “One Stop Shop” for drug enforcement was available. Otherwise, he believed the perpetrators would become familiar with the schedule and would commit the crimes during the off hours. Assistant Chief Ortenzo agreed and stated they were evaluating the number of calls that came in and what hours they took place.

- Economic Crimes Unit
 - Grand larceny
 - Identity theft
 - Fraud
 - Telemarketing
 - Elderly exploitation crimes
 - Arson
 - Hazardous materials
 - Internet fraud
- Burglary Unit
 - Residential and commercial
 - Pawn shops
 - TACAMO Program

- Overlay pawnshop transaction data with probationers
 - Violate habitual property offenders
 - Proactively prevent crime
 - Detective Jack Gee
 - 2001 National Property Crime investigator in U.S.
 - State President of Property Recovery Association
 - Authored State Laws concerning pawnshops
- Auto Theft Unit
 - Proactive investigations / prevention
- Fugitive Unit
 - Proactive fugitive apprehension
 - 231 felony arrests / 451 cleared felony cases
- Forensics Unit
 - Cases increasing due to use of technology to solve crimes
 - Fingerprint Section
 - AFIS – Automatic Fingerprint Identification System
 - Computerized database
 - 240 “unsolvable” cases solved

Special Investigations Division:

- Street Level Narcotics Unit
 - Undercover / sting operations
 - Street and mid-level drug operations
 - Raids / Search warrants
 - One Stop Shop narcotics program
 - Rapid Response Team
 - Sensitive citizen contact
 - Project Ecstasy
 - Prevention, education, enforcement
 - Landlord training
 - Prostitution enforcement / support
- Major Narcotics Unit
 - Upper-level investigations
 - HIDTA High Intensity Drug Activity Task Force
 - DEA Regional Task Force / Clandestine lab support
- Vice Unit
 - Prostitution
 - Undercover / sting operations
 - Prostitution Enforcement Team (PET)
 - SOAP – Stay Out of Areas of Prostitution
 - Habitual prostitution offender initiative
 - Adult entertainment
 - Alcoholic beverage violations
 - Intelligence

- Child exploitation
- Strategic Investigations Unit
 - Organized Crime
 - Racketeering
 - Nuisance abatement
 - Counterterrorism / Homeland Security
 - In-house intelligence
 - Joint Terrorism Task Force
 - INS Task Force member
 - SS Electronic Surveillance Task Force
 - Multi-agency Task Force
- Technical Support Unit
 - Supports entire agency and city
 - Equipment acquisition and maintenance
 - Audio / video surveillance / enhancement
 - Custom surveillance systems
 - Evidentiary / investigative photo support
 - SWAT / hostage equipment support

Inter-agency Cooperation:

- High Intensity Drug Task Force
- FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force
- INS Task Force
- Broward Interdiction Unit
- MAGTF
- Broward ATTF
- DEA SE Regional Task Force
- DEA MET Support
- Secret Service Electronic Crime Task Force
- SFISC
- U.S. Marshals Fugitive Task Force
- North Broward Drug Enforcement Unit

Future Initiatives:

- Enhanced use of DNA
- More database-matching technology
- Video surveillance / enhancement technology
- BOLO TV expansion (public cable version)
- Fort Lauderdale Intelligence Center
- Expanded computer crimes investigation
- More solvability without more manpower

Operations Bureau – Assistant Chief of Police Chuck Drago

Crime Reduction:

- Comp Stat Program
 - District and sector responsibilities
 - Manpower accountability
 - Computer statistics
 - Identify problems / trends
 - Quick deployment
 - Follow up
 - Monthly meetings
 - Part I Crime Reduction
 - Each district has declined since last year
- Special Action Plans
 - Operation FIDO
 - Probation / parole ride along
 - SMRCA/MRT, Sunrise corridor
 - 6th Street corridor, Districts 1 and 3
 - Traffic Safety Component

Mayor Naugle asked if there was a correlation between traffic enforcement and accidents, injuries, and property damage, and Assistant Chief Drago replied that the statistics were being compiled, but studies were inconclusive. When Mayor Naugle questioned what the ticketing proportion was for residents versus non-residents, Assistant Chief Drago stated that it was primarily residents who received the majority of tickets.

Assistant Chief Drago discussed noise concerns and cited operations undertaken to curb violations and other methods used to lessen the problem, e.g., meeting with motorcycle groups. Commissioner Smith felt that noise violations should be a priority.

- Homelessness
 - Outreach program
 - Crisis Intervention Team

Commissioner Katz noted the anticipated increase in homelessness, and asked if there was a plan in place to deal with that problem. Assistant Chief Drago explained the Crisis Intervention Program. A team member trained by mental health professionals accompanied officers dealing with homeless individuals who pose a threat to themselves or others. He also noted that the officers were well trained in terms of referrals for social services. Assistant Chief Drago informed Commissioner Smith that there was currently sufficient space at the Sunrise Boulevard shelter. He further stated that the chronic homeless, those with substance abuse or mental health issues, were the biggest problems.

- Drug and Bomb Dogs
 - High rate of success in seizure of narcotics
 - Explosive detection dogs essential
- Special Operations
 - Marine Unit
 - YTD 4,317 waterway complaints
 - 374 citations
 - 22 arrests

Commissioner Katz asked how many officers were patrolling the waterways at any given time. Assistant Chief Drago indicated that there were a total of 12 officers, with 4 on each shift. Commissioner Katz questioned why there were so few arrests (22) compared to the total number of complaints (4,317). Assistant Chief Drago stated that the patrol's goal was to educate and encourage voluntary compliance.

- K-9 Unit
 - Calls for service: 648
 - Felony apprehensions: 119
 - Misdemeanor apprehensions: 43
 - K-9 tracks: 130
 - Area searches: 138
 - Building searches: 194
 - Bite ratio: 7.4%
 - Felony non-K-9 arrests: 74
 - Misdemeanor non-K-9 arrests: 55
 - Citations: 108
- Dive Team Unit
 - Dive missions: 17
 - U.S. Customs – Operation Turbulent Trident
 - Dive shops
- Citizens on Patrol
 - Volunteers: 109
 - Includes “Terrorist Watch” training
- Community Police Academy
 - Started in 1994
 - Classes graduated: 17
 - Graduates: 646
- Teen Community Police Academy
 - Second class
 - Students: 50

Mayor Naugle asked if there were plans to extend this program to Dillard and Stranahan schools, and Assistant Chief Drago stated that he would like to, but there were some logistical problems.

- GREAT Program (Gang Resistance Education and Training)
 - Similar to DARE
 - Self-esteem based
 - Instructors: 6
 - 7th graders / 2 middle schools
 - 3rd graders at 16 elementary schools
- School Resource Officer Program
 - School Resource Officers: 11
 - Three high schools
 - Two middle schools
 - 16 elementary schools
 - DARE taught at elementary schools
 - Trading cards
- Haitian Community Partnership Program
 - Training for citizens of Haitian community
 - Haitian Town Hall meetings
 - Community Relations Specialist
 - Training for police officers
 - Creole classes
 - Haitian culture and awareness
 - Community training
 - Crime prevention training
 - Welcome kits for Haitian immigrants
- Shop with the Cops Program
 - Shopping centers
 - Accessible to community
 - IA complaints
 - Police reports
 - Crime report follow up
 - Bike registration
- Quality of Life Issues
 - Noise complaints: 15,000
 - Refused to give name: 59%
 - Majority are not chronic complaints
- Convenience Stores
 - Inspections / FI Security Act
 - Code Inspections
 - Underage sales of tobacco / alcohol
 - Underage sales training class
 - 2 AM Action Plan

- Public Pay Phones
 - Investigations since 1999: 550
 - Removed, no permit: 75%
 - Investigations YTD: 35
- Weapons of Mass Destruction
 - Developing Standard Operating Procedure
 - Training
 - Equipment
 - Extra security
- Blue Lightening
 - SWAT Team
 - Dive Team
- Parking Enforcement
 - Additional officers
 - 18 PEO
 - Absorbing into PD

Chief Roberts concluded the presentation:

- Vision for the Future
 - Continued crime reduction
 - Continue to investigate new initiatives
 - Aviation unit
- Ethical approach to crime and the community
 - “Do the right thing the right way at the right time for the right reasons”

Mayor Naugle commended Chief Roberts on the presentation and noted that the Commission would like to meet for discussion after the Fire Department’s presentation. One point he wanted to address was capital expenditure, specifically a Public Safety Bond Issue. He had been discussing this issue with the City Manager in recently months, and hoped this could be discussed further at the Fire-Rescue workshop in November.

Commissioner Smith also thanked Chief Roberts for the presentation, and wanted to stress that even though progress had been made, there was still more to be done. He stated that Fort Lauderdale was still the most crime-ridden city in Broward County, and one of the most in the State. He felt recent progress could be considered a jumping-off point for further improvement.

Commissioner Katz wished to comment on capital expenditure, but admitted it was best to wait until after the Fire Department’s presentation as well.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.